attempt. The more elaborate structure may please the traveller, from his post-chaise, but will not satisfy those, whose praise the architect is most desirous of receiving, that of his brother artists, of men of education and refinement of taste.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF FULHAM AND PUTNEY.

Sir,—The simple act of casting a stone into a pool, and watching the circling eddies and agitation its fall has caused in the otherwise stagnant water, is an universal and favourite amusement of children, and is also contemplated by the philosopher with considerable attention; but the moral effect produced by a well-directed blow at the supineness of parishes and other unwieldy stagnant bodies, is watched with much greater interest by bystanders, and its influence ranges far beyond the locality where the blow is first given.

I am induced to make these remarks from observing in The Builder of Nov. 22nd, a letter from "Observator," on the *improvement of Fulham*, which, it appears, had been written on his observing in *The Times* newspaper, an account of improvements that have been commenced in the parish of Chelsea, and are affecting parts far beyond that locality.

I perfectly agree with "Observator," that "*Fulham much needs improvement*:" from my residing at Putney I am obliged to pass daily through Fulham on my way to town, and am forced to notice the crooked, narrow, and dangerous lanes (they cannot be called roads) leading from Putney bridge to the other side of the town of Fulham. The authorities at Fulham have only one excuse to offer for their supineness, viz., "Habit is every thing," and they have been so long accustomed to twist and turn the tortuous windings of the present approach to the river, that they cannot now see any absurdity in it; but how the proprietors of Putney bridge can be so short-sighted and blind to their interests, as not to perceive the importance and advantages to them of a straight and easy access to their bridge, I cannot conceive. Nothing would improve the town of Fulham so much as a straight, wide, and easy access to the river; the town would become healthier and cleaner, property more valuable, and more on a par with the improving localities of Chelsea and Brompton. I hope, therefore, its inhabitants and the proprietors of Putney bridge, will take a hint from what has been done at Chelsea, immediately bestir themselves, and pull together to obtain a local Act for improvement, which will eventually tend to their mutual benefit.—I am, Sir, &c., H.

Putney, Nov. 24th, 1845.

STIR IN THE WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

On Friday, the 21st inst., a very numerous assemblage of the commissioners took place. In the absence of Mr. Edward Willoughby the chair was occupied by Captain Bague. The balance at the bankers was declared to be 17,062*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* After much routine business had been transacted, and an application from Mr. Pennethorne, calling upon the Court to carry out an implied understanding as to the St. Giles's improvements, granted, the important business of the day commenced,—to consider and sanction the resolutions passed at the Court on the 14th instant. (See page 561 *ante*.)

Mr. Doull, the assistant-surveyor, the gentleman most seriously affected by the proceedings of the Court on the 14th inst., had addressed a letter in the Court, which was read by the clerk, 31 commissioners voting that it should be read, and 6 against it.

It set forth that, about ten years ago, he was appointed chief surveyor, Mr. Dowley having ceased to retain that office; that Mr. Dowley re-entered the service as assistant-surveyor, and that afterwards, their appointments were reversed by the Court. That after this, he was harassed by motions for his dismissal, and resolved to tender his resignation. "Upon this," said the writer, "I was most strenuously urged not to think for a moment of resigning, and I received, particularly from the late chairman, Mr. T. L. Donaldson, the most high-sounding declarations of friendship and professional brotherhood and esteem; and was most positively assured by Mr. Allason in reiterated terms, that the committee were bound to support me, to make a most favourable report of my services, and most honourable mention of me, and that I ought by no means to think of resigning."

The letter terminated with the following:—"After having given up a beneficial and increasing practice and connection, not possible now to be regained, in which I had acquired, I presume I may say deservedly so, an unsullied reputation, both professional and private; and having spent the last and best ten years of the prime of my life in your service, in which, I can truly say, I have constantly used the most vigorous and unremitting exertions, in the faithful discharge of all the duties entrusted to me, it is now proposed to turn me adrift on the world, with an implied stigma on my character, and thereby perhaps cause me to be a ruined man, although not one single charge of misconduct or impropriety in any shape can be established, or has ever been attempted to be made against me."

Mr. T. L. Donaldson wished Mr. Doull might be called into court: when he arrived,—

Mr. Donaldson stated, that he had taken the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Doull should be present to hear what observations he had to make upon his letter, which contained serious accusations against him; and as the character of a public man was public property, he trusted the Court would pardon him for making a few observations on that letter. He took particular objection to the words "high-sounding declarations of friendship and professional brotherhood and esteem." He had every reason to respect the personal character of Mr. Doull: he was a man of the highest integrity, and of the most amiable manners; he and Mr. Doull had been for several years connected as officers of the Court, but in private matters never; and he thought it was injudicious in Mr. Doull to use the words "high-sounding declarations of friendship and esteem." More than the opinion that he entertained, as chairman of the Court, for the officers of the Court, he never professed. The officers had been in the habit of coming to his house to ask his opinion, and he considered that these meetings were private and confidential communications; not that he cared personally that they were to come before the world. At the period alluded to, Mr. Doull did come to him, and said the motion was of such a nature as to induce him to resign the appointment rather than be exposed to any further molestations. He (Mr. Donaldson) said that he naturally felt for him as an officer of the Court, for the position in which he was placed, and expressed an interest for him as a professional brother. Mr. Doull then replied that he had made up his mind, and would send in his resignation; to which he (Mr. Donaldson) urged, that that would be a recognition of the charge against him; for he did not know what might be the result of the inquiry, or what modification might be made in the appointment. Mr. Doull did not resign; the arguments he (Mr. Donaldson) had used to him had prevailed. But when he (Mr. Donaldson) knew the result of the investigation, he then told Mr. Doull that he thought he ought to resign. So that Mr. Doull was incorrect in saying that he had, in every case, been most strongly urged by him not to resign.

Mr. Allason, seeing that he also was implicated by Mr. Doull in his letter, said, that when Mr. Doull came to his house after the first meeting of the committee, it was impossible for him, Mr. A., to have used the words attributed to him. He was quite sure that it was the disposition of every member of the committee to do ample justice to him as a man, but although he was not present at the meeting, he fully concurred in their report; that as an assistant-surveyor, he, Mr. Doull, was incompetent, and that the committee was not to be found fault with for having so determined. He, Mr. Allason, was certain, that no individual could be found more fitting for the duties Mr. Doull had since that period been called upon to perform, but the resolutions of the Court, passed at the instance of Mr. Leslie, were evidently the cause of Mr. Doull's dismissal, and could not be imputed to him or any other member of that committee.

Mr. Leslie thought that in the attempt at exculpating himself and the committee from the charges Mr. Doull had brought against that body, Mr. Allason had no right to inculpate him, who was taking no part in the extraordinary proceedings going on. The resolutions he had carried in that Court were for the benefit and security of the public, but not at the expense of Mr. Doull or any other officer.

Mr. Doull being asked if he had any remarks to make, said he had very few words to offer to the Court, because very few were necessary. So far from there being any breach of confidence in the statements he had made, he felt justified in the course he had pursued. He saw little or nothing contradicted of those statements, and so far from the conversations being of a private or confidential nature, he felt that they had taken place under circumstances which left him at full liberty to make any use he pleased of them. He wished to allude to a conversation with the present chairman, Mr. Edward Willoughby, but the Court thought as Mr. Willoughby was not present, Mr. Doull could not do so. Mr. Doull then said he could only repeat his statements, and he challenged contradiction of a single word; he considered that not one fact in his letter had been contradicted, nor could he. It had been a matter of regret that he had been compelled to name the two gentlemen who had spoken, and many, no doubt, would consider it an act of temerity on his part; but the time had arrived when it will not do to mince matters.

On Mr. Le Breton, proceeding to move that the orders of Court be sanctioned, Mr. Hertslet being called upon, stated, that he never knew an order of Court to be sanctioned, and in reply to Mr. Donaldson, he said he could find no precedent. Mr. Leslie objected to an order of a Court of Record requiring a sanction, except in those cases where necessary for the public security as concerning outlays of the public money; but in those cases, there was a previous order of Court, compelling that safeguard to the public; but in this instance the order of Court for sanctioning came subsequently to the orders having been recorded.

Mr. T. L. Donaldson thought that Mr. Leslie was out of Court, he had not interferred in the discussion. The fact was, a string of resolutions were concatenated together in a hurried manner, and there was no idea that the votes of the previous Court were to be considered as a definite conclusion. He had no idea when he came to the previous Court, that he should have been called upon to take the part he did, and therefore he thought that appending those resolutions to the business paper of the present was a proper and wholesome regulation.

Mr. Fuller said that these proceedings were the first public acknowledgment that Mr. Leslie's statements in his pamphlet were accurate. The resolution of the last Court, now to be sanctioned, stated that the surveyors department was inefficient. Mr. Leslie, had declared over and over again in this Court that it was inefficient; inefficient in the digging, by means of which a much larger quantity of digging was paid for to the contractors than they had executed, and that warrants of distress had been signed in this Court to sell the beds from under the poor rate-payers to pay for this inefficiency. What would the Secretary of State say, when having sent for the answers to the allegations brought against this commission, he heard that they had dismissed their surveyors for inefficiency immediately after the promised answer was drawn up. Then, again, at the very moment when the Court was to appear in a trial at law, to determine whether the contractor or his sureties, or the rate-payers of the division, were to pay for the failure of the sewer in the Gloucester-road, Paddington, that moment was selected to break up and discharge the surveyors, and a resolution come to (in order to get rid of Mr. Phillips), that there should be no assistant-surveyors at all.

Mr. Hawkes stated, that as he was absent from the preceding Court, the resolutions had come upon him with surprise. He should be glad to be informed what were the grounds upon which the Court determined the inefficiency of their surveyors. He would grant, that if Mr. Dowley could not deny the truth of Mr. Phillips's entry in the Book of Informations, as to the abominably filthy condition of the sewers, there were good grounds for declaring the surveyors' department was ineffi-

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